

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 18, 2006. In view of the foregoing amendments and following representations, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

On page 4 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicates that claims 16-17 and 21-22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, to expedite the prosecution in the present application, independent claims 14 and 19 have been amended to place them in allowable form. In particular, claim 14 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 15 and allowable claim 16. Also, claim 19 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 20 and allowable claim 21. Therefore, claims 14 and 19 are now clearly allowable.

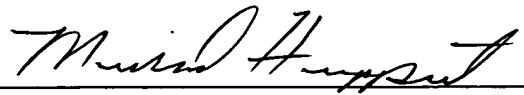
Further, claims 17, 18, 22 and 23 depend, directly or indirectly, from one of the allowable independent claims, and are therefore allowable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the present application is now clearly in condition for allowance. The Examiner therefore is requested to enter the above amendment and pass this case to issue.

In the event that the Examiner has any comments or suggestions of a nature necessary to place this case in condition for allowance, then the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney by telephone to promptly resolve any remaining matters.

Respectfully submitted,

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